SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2002

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SARL news invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs to sarlnews@hotmail.com not later than the Thursday preceeding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both English and Afrikaans.

In the news today:

APOLOGY

NEWS ITEMS FOR SARLNEWS

MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT

CHRISTMAS NET

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Website or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from nine to thirteen hours (09:00 to 13:00) at 0(zero)11 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

The news follows in detail:

APOLOGY

The Council of the SARL would like to apologise to Hansie Meyer, ZS6AIK. It was indicated that Hansie is not a member of the SARL when in fact he is a member of long standing.

APOLOGY 2

SARLNEWS wishes to apologise for the late delivery of last Sunday's bulletin via e-mail. Technical problems which occurred in the transmission process was the reason.

NEWS ITEMS FOR SARL-NEWS

Because of the large amount of "spam" which has suddenly started to appear on the Hotmail address, persons sending news items to SARLnews are urgently requested to mark them clearly as "SARL NEWS/NUUS ITEM". For the present bulletin three items of news were received and 50 others of which some were not very nice. It takes a bit of time to sort the wheat from the chaff.

NEW 6cm / 5760 MHz ZS RECORD

On Saturday 7 December ZS6AXT and ZS6JON/P improved the 24 year old record in the 6cm / 5760 MHz band of 26 km. First contact was established over a distance of 32 km, then a bit later over 49,8 km, from Krugersdorp to the Irene area. During both contacts signals were 59 on SSB.

Equipment used was on ZS6AXT's side a 5m dish and 20W while ZS6JON had just 400 mW and a small horn. Further tests to improve the distance on Thursday 12 December were abandoned due to the heavy rain.

MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT

Following an enquiry about information published on the SARL website with respect to morse code testing, the matter was taken up with Mr Arrie Putter of ICASA. According to Mr Putter the Minister of Communications has not yet signed the new radio regulations; therefore the present radio regulations are still in force. According to these regulations a test of 12 words per minute must be passed to obtain a ZS licence and 5 words per minute to obtain a ZU licence. Until such time that the new regulations are signed, the status quo remains.

CHRISTMAS NET

A special Christmas Net, hosted by Sid Tyler ZS6AYC, will be held at 23:45 CAT on Tuesday 24 December 2002 on 3,718 MHz LSB. Everybody is invited to join the net and pass along their Christmas greetings.

SPECIAL EVENT STATION ZS90SAP

The call sign ZS90SAP will be active from 01 January until 31 December 2003 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the South African Police Service. The SAPS was established in 1913 with the objective to enforce law and order and to ensure a save and secure environment for all the people of South Africa.

Members of the Vaal Triangle Amateur Radio Club, under leadership of Jan Swanepoel, ZS6ZYM, will operate ZS90SAP during 2003. The call sign will be active on the 70-cm, 2, 6, 10, 20, 40 and 80 metre bands.

QSL cards will only be sent on receipt of your QSL card. QSL cards can be sent via the bureau or direct to ZS90SAP, Jan Swanepoel, PO Box 14393, Zuurfontein, 1912.

Listen out for ZS90SAP and keep the QSL cards ready.

SARL WEBSITE UPDATE

Now you can refer contacts you make to the SARL web for QSL information. From the "Visitors" site you can now look up call signs straight from the home page. It's quicker and easier than ever before. Congatulations to Rudi Venter ZS6DX who has already had over 700 lookups on the site.

To find out how many lookups you've had, or to check your details on the Call book without affecting your counter you can use the special "Details check" page on the SARL Web. This page allows you to check your callbook information, see how many times you've been looked up, check your membership status and even get the system to send you your password by e-mail.

Don't forget, if you haven't already done so, to take part in the SARL membership services survey on the SARL web. Let us know where the SARL is doing well and where there is still work to be done. Make your voice heard.

Do you have equipment in excess to your requirements or are you looking for something for your shack? Check out the vibrant online swop-shop on the SARL web, you might just be helped there.

SARL PRESIDENT'S NET

At the executive meeting held on 30 November it was decided that the last President's Net for 2002 would be on the air on Sunday 8 December. From January 2003 the President's Net will be on the air every second Sunday of the Month.

ARRL SURVEY

The ARRL is running a survey to find out if travellers are having problems contacting local amateurs when travelling. Do they take a mobile radio with on journeys? Maybe the Hamnet should run such a survey to see how prepared we really are to help travelers or for emergency calls.

This brings us to the end of today's news bulletin.

This bulletin was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN and read by ……..from … as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21560, 9750, and 7082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban and 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 20:00 CAT on 3215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us. Also a big word of thanks to those persons supplying news for these bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX